



NEWS RELEASE

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Sta. Ana Public Market Has New Wastewater Treatment Facility

The people of Sta. Ana will now enjoy better water quality of the Pasig River and Manila Bay, with the inauguration of the Sta. Ana Public Market Wastewater Treatment Facility that took place on September 16, 2010. Built by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and City of Manila with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Rotary Pasig River Improvement Project, the treatment plant will allow the market to comply with the Clean Water Act and other regulations to improve the water quality of the Pasig River and Manila Bay.

“The lack of access to clean water in the Philippines results in millions of cases of waterborne diseases each year, causing high health and economic cost”, observed Mr. Rolf Anderson, Chief Office of Energy and Environment/USAID. “The Project will help clean up the Pasig River and benefit 14,000 more people in Metro Manila,” he added.

Most public markets in the Philippines discharge highly polluted water into septic tanks that do not provide full treatment. The polluted effluent then flows from the septic tanks into canals, rivers, lakes and coastal waters. This results in health hazards, economic losses and threats to biodiversity. The World Bank and USAID estimated in a 2007 report that the Philippine economy loses more than P78 billion per year due to poor sanitation and wastewater treatment systems.

The Sta. Ana Wastewater Treatment Facility utilizes a low-cost and low-maintenance design. It makes use of naturally occurring bacteria to break down the pollutants in the wastewater. The costs of construction, monthly operation and maintenance are considerably less than that of a conventional wastewater treatment plant that requires chemicals and substantial energy inputs. Similar designs have been used in public markets in Dumaguete, Muntinlupa, and San Fernando, La Union with technical assistance from USAID.

Construction of the facility began in March 2010 with P3.1 million in funding from the USAID-Rotary H₂O Alliance and in-kind contributions from MMDA and the City of Manila.

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